

# Magnificat

St Matthew's Church, Hayfield  
Sunday 10 December 2017

by kind permission of the vicar



director	<b>Simon Mercer</b>
organist	<b>Roger Briscoe</b>
soprano	<b>Ceferina Penny</b>
alto	<b>Mia Serracino-Inglott</b>
tenor	<b>Glyn Webster</b>
bass	<b>Henry Reavey</b>

<b>J S Bach</b>	<b>Magnificat in D</b>
<b>Morten Lauridsen</b>	<b>O Magnum Mysterium</b>
<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>In the Bleak Midwinter</b>
<b>Herbert Howells</b>	<b>Here is the Little Door</b>

**PROGRAMME £1**



## INTRODUCING SIMON MERCER

Originally from West Sussex, Simon was a chorister from the age of 7 and began playing the organ aged 12. His teenage musical love was the trumpet, which he studied with Crispian Steele-Perkins, taking part in performances of the Bach *Magnificat* and *B Minor Mass* and becoming Principal Trumpet in the Brighton Youth Orchestra at 14.

He became Assistant Organist at Arundel R.C. Cathedral as a sixth-former and began formal organ lessons with Alan Thurlow at Chichester Cathedral.

Simon read Music at the University of Sheffield, studying at the cathedral with Graham Matthews, who even now acts as guide and mentor.



Simon's passion for directing began here and he conducted all of the University ensembles and choirs. Postgraduate work at the RNCM and in Sheffield followed, before he was appointed Assistant Organist at St George's Church, Stockport, and Assistant Director of Music at Cheadle Hulme School.

Further teaching posts followed at St Ambrose College and Marple 6th Form College, before his final appointment as Director of Music at The King's School in Macclesfield. Whilst he found school work highly fulfilling, Simon also conducted KEMS, Marple Choral Society and Prestbury Choral Societies.

He joined the staff at JRNCM in 1991 on the academic side and has been teaching the organ there for over 20 years; many of his pupils have gone on to scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge Universities as well as to conservatories and cathedrals. Simon also teaches for the Royal College of Organists and has been an ABRSM examiner since 2002.

Simon left the teaching profession after 25 years in July 2014. He is now pursuing a varied freelance career as performer, conductor, tutor and mentor. He and Matt Palmer (trumpet) formed their duo partnership in 2005

on a lively tour of Upper Austria and Vienna and most recently performed in Buxton. They will be playing in Manchester in the New Year.

Simon guest-conducted the RNCM Symphony Chorus in their preparations for Mahler 2 and the British Premier of Pendereki's 7th Symphony; he was the founding Director of the Hallé Choral Academy and has been Director of the JRNCM Vocal Ensemble for 5 years. This elite choir of 65 highly talented young musicians performs diverse repertoire by Bach, Chilcott, Duruflé, Fauré, Lauridsen, Whittaker and many more.

He is really looking forward to working with Hayfield Singers having taken over in October.

## THE CHOIR

In October 1992 Tricia Howitt founded the Hayfield Singers with the support of Jonathan Holland, who became the choir's first conductor. The choir's inaugural concert was in December of that year at St Matthew's Church, Hayfield, thus beginning a long and fruitful relationship with both the church and the village. The choir has grown steadily since its inception, now numbering around sixty singers drawn from Hayfield, New Mills, Glossop, Whaley Bridge and the surrounding area.

Following Tricia's untimely death in October 2015, Jonathan returned to lead the choir for the following season. When he moved away from the local area, the Singers, for the first time, were required to recruit a professional musical director. New Zealander Lindy Tennent-Brown took up the baton for a year until she too moved away, and was succeeded in turn by our current director, Simon Mercer.

In this our 25th year we welcome you to St Matthew's and we hope you enjoy our first concert under Simon's leadership.

Musical director

Simon Mercer

Associate musical director &  
rehearsal pianist

Roger Briscoe

Honorary life members

Jonathan Holland  
Betty Titterton

## THE PROGRAMME

### Choir and soloists *Magnificat* in D

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

*Magnificat* (chorus)

*Et exultavit spiritus meus* (soprano)

*Vom Himmel hoch* (chorus)

*Quia respexit humilitatem* (soprano)

*Omnes generationes* (chorus)

*Quia fecit mihi magna* (bass)

*Freut euch und jubiliert* (soprano, alto and tenor chorus)

*Et misericordia* (alto, tenor)

*Fecit potentiam* (chorus)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo* (chorus)

*Deposuit potentes* (tenor)

*Esurientes implevit bonis* (alto)

*Virga Jesse floruit* (soprano, bass)

*Suscepit Israel* (soprano and alto chorus)

*Sicut locutus est* (chorus)

*Gloria patri* (chorus)

### INTERVAL

Refreshments provided by Hayfield May Queen Committee

**All** *Once in Royal David's City*

*words page 12*

**Choir** *O Magnum Mysterium*

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Two carols from *Nowell! Nowell!*

Chris Williams

**Choir** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

**All** *Welcome Yule!*

*words page 13*

**All** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*words page 13*

**Choir** *Here is the Little Door*

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

**Choir** *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*

Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane, arr. Peter Gritton (b. 1963)

**All** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*words page 14*



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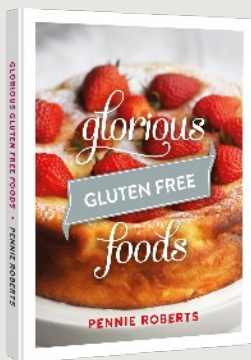


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# THE PERFORMERS

## Soloists

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Bass

Ceferina Penny  
Mia Serracino-Inglott  
Glyn Webster  
Henry Reavey

## Instrumentalists

Organ  
Violins  
Viola  
Cello  
Double bass  
Oboes  
Flutes  
Trumpets  
Timpani

Roger Briscoe  
Emily Howard, Lucy McKay  
Heather Henshall  
Ros Bevan  
Mark Hudson  
Aisling Palmer, Bethan Roberts  
Kirsty Hetherington, Maria Snowdon  
Matt Palmer, Stephen Murphy, Neale Hobson  
Clowance Gregory

## Sopranos

Megan Barley  
Hilary Bennett  
Nicola Bould  
Wendy Broomhead  
Diana Cole  
Sue Colston  
Andy Cooper  
Andrea Dreaves  
Mary Edgerton  
Jenn Flanagan  
Anne Fraser  
Jill Griffiths  
Lyn Gurney  
Jill Hulme  
Kirsty Kelly  
Helen Kroening  
Chris Moore  
Carol Roberts  
Debs Shaw

Isabelle Smith  
Vicki Perry  
Susan Wyatt

## Altos

Jane Ayres  
Joan Bond  
Rhiannon Collins  
Jeanne Daniels  
Lesley German  
Kath Higgins  
Kathleen Mais  
Deborah Marchlewski  
Lesley Mason  
Sarah Mills  
Sheila Senior  
Anne Sumner  
Janet Taylor  
Rosemary Vanns  
Rachel Waddington

## Tenors

Katy Askew Gillott  
David Dunford  
Peter Edgerton  
Colin Hill  
Nick Francis  
Simon Leefe  
Jim Mason  
Bill Roberts  
Pennie Roberts

## Basses

Robert Cartledge  
John Flanagan  
Allan Mackay  
Cliff Mills  
Rob Pimlott  
Peter Senior  
Pete Webb  
Norrie Williams

## THE SOLOISTS

**Ceferina Penny** (soprano) is 17 years old and in her third year at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music (JRNCM), where she is the vocalist for the



New Music Ensemble. Recently she was awarded a High Distinction in her ABRSM Grade 8 Singing exam. She has performed since 2011 (both at home, abroad and on recordings as a soloist) with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, most notably during a 2016 tour of northern Spain, the highlight being a solo performed in the fabulous Burgos Cathedral. At the JRNCM, where she recently received the Helen Latto 'Soroptimists' prize for singing, Ceferina studies voice with Jenny Heslop, who formerly taught her at Manchester High School for Girls, where she is a Year 13 pupil. Enjoying all things musical, when not

singing, she can regularly be found in the percussion section of the school orchestra. Ceferina has won numerous festival awards, recently winning five vocal solo classes at the 2017 Alderley Edge Festival. She was also presented with the Music Award for Best Overall Singer and as a result was nominated to take part in the North West Regional Championship, held in September, where she won the the voice section. In 2015 Ceferina was selected to take part in a masterclass at the prestigious Oxenfoord International Summer School. Ceferina maintains a passion for singing with her local church, St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury, where she particularly enjoys singing with the much acclaimed Church Consort.

**Mia Serracino-Inglott** (alto) is a Year 13 student at Manchester High School for Girls where she is studying for A-levels in Music, Drama, Spanish and



English Literature. Outside school she leads a busy and varied musical and dramatic life. She has been studying at JRNCM for the last five years where her singing teacher is Jenny Heslop. She is a valued member of the JRNCM Vocal Ensemble but also performs in many other genres. Mia joined the Hallé Children's Choir in 2010 and soon progressed to the Youth Choir; she regularly performs at the

Bridgewater Hall conducted by Sir Mark Elder and will be singing at the Proms again this summer. She is a member of the National Youth Music Theatre company. Mia has taken part in vocal masterclasses given by

internationally recognised musicians Malcolm Martineau and Gary Matthewman and has performed as a soloist for the Philharmonic Choir of Manchester in the Vivaldi *Gloria*.

**Glyn Webster** (tenor) is 16 years old. He attends the JRNCM and the Manchester Grammar School, where he is studying for his A-levels. Glyn's strongest musical interest is in singing, and from the age of six he has sung in choirs such as the Kinder Choir, Halle Youth Choir, the National Youth Boys' Choir and he has attended several of the Junior Eton Choral Courses. As a soloist, Glyn enjoyed a significant treble career, singing in two productions at Opera North including a principal role in Handel's *Joshua*. He has sung with orchestras such as Welsh National Opera, Britten Sinfonia, and Orchestra of Opera North, taking the leading vocal part with these orchestras in Christmas productions of *The Snowman*. At the Buxton Festival, Glyn co-starred as James in *James and the Giant Peach* in 2012. Now a tenor, he is involved in several close-harmony groups including a barbershop quartet and he directs his own ensemble at JRNCM. Glyn hopes to study music at university, and in addition to singing he is active in choral conducting and he also enjoys playing the violin, piano and organ.



**Henry Reavey** (bass) is from Macclesfield and reads music in his second year at the University of Birmingham. Piano is his first study at Birmingham but he continues singing lessons in Manchester with Richard Strivens. Henry has enjoyed singing in choirs since joining the King's School in Macclesfield in reception. Since his voice settled as a bass/baritone he started singing lessons with Richard at King's and sang solos in Fauré's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Maria Theresa Mass*. After a year of singing lessons Henry began attending the JRNCM where he took singing as his first study for three years with Richard and sang in the Vocal Ensemble under Simon Mercer and Eduardo Portal, including solos in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Duruflé's *Requiem*. At JRNCM his desire to learn about music both practically and theatrically grew more and confirmed that he wanted to study music at university. Outside of music Henry's biggest interest is football and he is a big Manchester United fan.



## THE MUSIC

### J S Bach: *Magnificat* BWV 243a (texts p. 11)

As it was written in 1723 for the first Sunday of Advent, it is appropriate to perform this masterpiece this evening in the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. Originally in the key of E flat, Bach brought it down into bright D major and makes great use of the trumpets and timpani.

The sheer joy and rapture expressed by the Virgin Mary permeates the entire five-part choral texture and Bach's word-painting is nothing short of genius. The rhythmic repetitions of the word "Magnificat" and the jocular way in which the chorus abruptly bustles in at the end of the second soprano aria with *Omnes generationes* ("all generations") are just two of numerous excellent examples of his art.

The "Four Christmas Interpolations" are rarely performed but are here, as in 1723, woven between movements recalling the words and music of Luther and medieval plainsong.

These forty minutes of music are a distillation of the best in Bach's output and can be savoured in the same way as a fine malt whisky or a cognac.

### Morten Lauridsen: *O Magnum Mysterium* (text p. 12)

"For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful text depicting the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God's grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated through a quiet song of profound inner joy." (Lauridsen). First performed in December 1994, this is justifiably one of his most famous and best-loved works. Born in 1943 and beginning his career as a forest firefighter, Lauridsen studied at the University of Southern California, joining the staff in 1967, and has remained there ever since. A multi-award winner at national and international level, he is one of the most recorded and performed of all choral composers.

### Chris Williams: *In the Bleak Midwinter and Welcome Yule!*

Chris Williams is a friend and collaborator of Graham Wili, who has sung with the Hayfield Singers as a soloist in the past. We are performing two works from Williams' *Nowell! Nowell!*, a collection of carols and rounds for choirs. This set of books has been donated to the Hayfield Singers in memory of Dr Andrew Fisher, an enthusiastic and much-missed member of our tenor section, who particularly loved this new version of *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

## Herbert Howells: *Here is the little door*

This is the first of the Three Carol Anthems written in 1915 and 1916 whilst the composer was recovering from Graves' Disease and working with R.R. Terry at Westminster Cathedral. They edited a vast corpus of Latin Tudor repertoire which influenced all of Howells' subsequent choral works. This lovely carol sets a poem by Francis Chesterton describing the arrival of the Magi and their feelings at the presentation of the gifts. Exquisite in its pathos and depth, it is a real gem.

### THE TEXTS

#### *Magnificat*

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum, et  
exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari  
meo,*

*[Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her.  
Ich bring' euch gute neue Mär,  
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,  
Davon ich singn und sagen will.]*

*Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.  
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes  
generationes.*

*Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen eius.*

*[Freut euch und jubiliert;  
Zu Bethlehem gefunden wird  
Das herzeliebe Jesulein,  
Das soll euer Freud und Wonne sein.]*

*Et misericordia ejus a progenie in proge-  
nies timentibus eum. Fecit potentiam bra-  
chio suo; dispersit superbos mente cordis  
sui.*

*[Gloria in excelsis Deo! Et in terra pax  
hominibus, bona voluntas!]*

*Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit  
humiles.  
Esurientes implevit bonis, et divites  
dimisit inanes.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my  
spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

[From heaven above to earth I come  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
Whereof I now will say and sing.]

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his  
handmaiden. For behold, from hence-  
forth all generations shall call me  
blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his name.

[Rejoice and celebrate;  
At Bethlehem will be found  
The heart's darling little Jesus,  
Who shall be your joy and delight.]

And his mercy is on them that fear him.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagi-  
nation of their hearts.

[Glory to God in the highest! And on  
earth peace and goodwill to humankind!]

He hath put down the mighty from their  
seat: and hath exalted the humble and  
meek. He hath filled the hungry with  
good things: and the rich he hath sent  
empty away.

*[Virga Jesse floruit,  
Emmanuel noster apparuit;  
Induit carnem hominis,  
Fit puer delectabilis; Alleluja.]*

*Suscepit Israel, puerum suum, recordatus  
misericordiae suae. Sicut locutus est ad  
patres nostros, Abraham et semini ejus in  
saecula.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,  
sicut erat in principio.*

*Et nunc, et semper: et in Saecula saeculo-  
rum. Amen.*

## **O Magnum Mysterium**

*O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praeseptio!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt por-  
tare Dominum Christum.  
Alleluia!*

*[The branch of Jesse flowers,  
Our Emmanuel appears;  
He takes on the flesh of humanity,  
Becoming a charming boy; Alleluia.]*

*He remembering his mercy hath helped  
his servant Israel. As he promised to our  
forefathers, Abraham and his seed for  
ever.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

*O great mystery,  
and wondrous sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born  
Lord, lying in their manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was  
worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!*

## **Once in Royal David's City**

1. Solo    2. Solo (quartet)

3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
    he would honour and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
    in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
    mild, obedient, good as he.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern,  
    day by day, like us he grew.  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love.  
For that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

### *Welcome Yule!*

**Ground:** Welcome, Welcome, Welcome this holy day!

**1, 2, 3:** Welcome Yule, thou merry, merry man in worship of this holy day!

**4:** Welcome, Welcome, Welcome, Welcome Yule!

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:  
*Chorus*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
*Chorus*

## *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity!  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Chorus*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
*Chorus*



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£50 per year entitles your family to two tickets to each concert (December and April), invitations to musical and social events and acknowledgement of your support in concert programmes. Contact Pete Webb on 07815 133685 for further details.

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Local companies are invited to sponsor a concert or season in return for a range of benefits including free or subsidised tickets, advertising, special refreshments, and promotion in the choir's publicity material. Contact Dave Dunford on 01663 747574 for more details.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hayfield Singers are grateful to the vicar and officers of St Matthew's for use of the church and church hall during the year.

We are indebted to our patron, James MacMillan CBE, who has supported us since 2005.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Friends of the Hayfield Singers – Allan Barnes, Brian Harris and Mr and Mrs Paul Richardson – for their support. Also we thank our advertisers and all of you who have attended our concerts and social events throughout the year. Your support is invaluable.

The choir relies on the voluntary efforts of a hard-working Committee, as well as contributions, some long-term, some one-off, from choir members and their friends and families. To list them all would be onerous and would risk omitting some contributors, so instead we would like to thank everybody sincerely but collectively for their assistance in the running of the choir.

Refreshments this year have been provided by the Hayfield May Queen Committee and we hope you will take the opportunity to support this good cause by purchasing something to eat and drink during the interval.



[www.hayfieldsingers.org.uk](http://www.hayfieldsingers.org.uk)

## JOIN THE HAYFIELD SINGERS

We are actively seeking tenors and basses to join us. Singing experience is not critical and we do not audition: you just need to be able to pitch a note. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings in the Church Hall here at St Matthew's: either contact a choir member in advance or just turn up at the first rehearsal (see below).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sunday 17th December 2017: St Matthew's Carol Service

We will be back in St Matthew's next Sunday to contribute to new vicar John Hudghton's first Christmas Service.

### Tuesday 19th December 2017: Carol Singing

Two days later, we plan to carol-sing around the village pubs, from 8pm onwards. Watch our website or Facebook page for details.

### Tuesday 9th January 2018: First rehearsal

Rehearsals begin for our next concert, starting at 8pm here at St Matthew's.

### Sunday 29th April 2018: Spring Concert

Our spring concert, a gala event to mark the end of our 25th-anniversary season, will take place at 7.30pm on **Sunday 29th April 2018** and will feature a performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

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